REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated March 28, 2007, and to the Advisory Action dated June 18, 2007. Claims 1, 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65 are amended by this response. No new matter is added by these amendments. A Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time are submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees which are due in connection with this response.

The Office Action rejected:

(a) Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16-19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-37, 39-44, 46-51, 53-56, 58-63, 65-68 and 70-74 and 76-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,904 ("Locke");

(b) Claims 7, 20, 32, 45, 57, 69, 88 and 89 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke; and

(c) Claims 13, 15, 27, 38, 52, 64 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0065126 to Miller et al. ("Miller").

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Additionally, certain of the claims have been amended for clarity purposes.

Locke discloses a gaming device having a bonus game in which a player receives a plurality of free spins. The display of Locke illustrated in Fig. 5 is reproduced here to better illustrate Locke's disclosure.

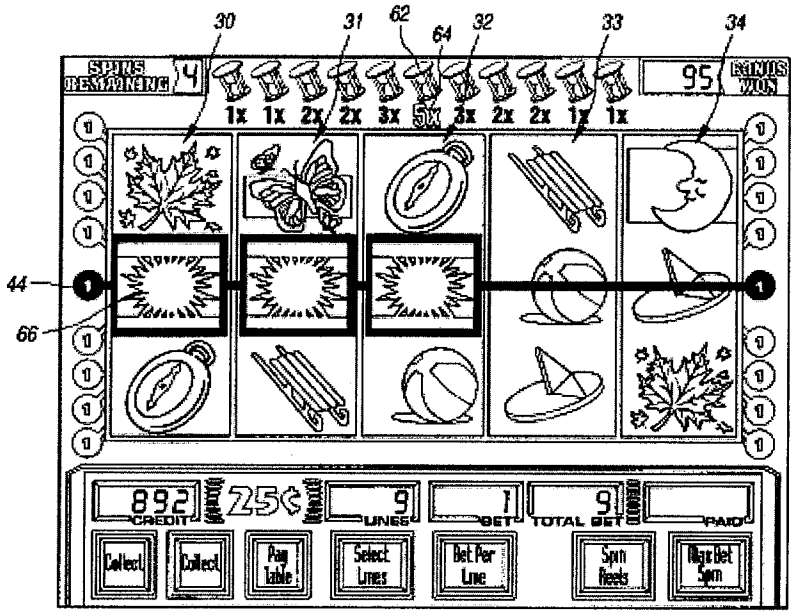


FIG. 5

In each spin, a set of multipliers 64 is available. Prior to a free spin, one of the multipliers 64 is randomly selected. Col. 4, Lines 15-20. If the player receives an award from the outcome 44 of the reels 30 to 34 on a free spin, the award associated with the reel outcome 44 is multiplied by the selected multiplier 64. Col. 4, Lines 35-40. The set of multipliers 64 available can remain the same from free spin to free spin or can change. Col. 5, Line 60 – Col. 6, Line 13. Consequently, during the bonus game, a first outcome 44 and a second outcome (not shown in Fig. 5 above) can be associated with a different set of multipliers. Col. 4, Lines 49-67.

The Office Action interprets a "current outcome" 44 in the bonus game to be a first one of the first components and a "next outcome" (not shown in Fig. 5 above) to be a second one of the first components. Further, the Office Action interprets the "current outcome" 44 as having a predetermined relationship ("the first relationship") with a current set of hourglasses (e.g., "1X, 1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X, 1X") and associated multipliers and the "next outcome" (not shown in Fig. 5 above) as having a predetermined relationship ("the second relationship") with the next set of hourglasses (e.g., "1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X"). The Office Action further interprets the first relationship to exist simultaneously with the second relationship because at the time the

current outcome is determined, it is predetermined that the "next outcome" (not shown in Fig. 5 above) will be associated with the next set of hourglasses.

Locke also discloses displaying the different sets of hourglasses 62 and associated multipliers 64 on different spins. The Office Action appears to reason that because the elements of all of the subsequent sets of hourglasses are displayed when the current set of hourglasses is displayed, this means that all subsequent sets of hourglasses are displayed. The Office Action concludes that because all subsequent sets of hourglasses are displayed during the current spin, the predetermined relationships "... for all sets of second components are displayed simultaneously." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

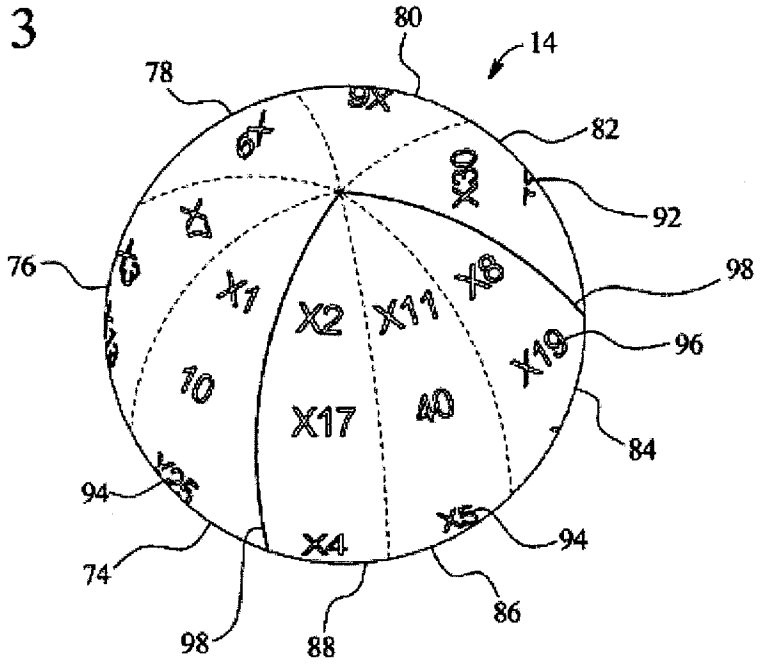
In the Response to Final Office Action, Applicant reasoned that Locke does not disclose simultaneously displaying the first and second relationships under the above interpretation of the relationships. In response, the Advisory Action reinterpreted the relationships to be spatial relationships, stating:

> Applicant argues that Locke does not disclose the predetermined relationship between the 'current outcome' and the first set of multipliers is not simultaneously displayed with the predetermined relationship between the 'next outcome' and the second set of multipliers. The examiner does not find this argument to be persuasive, as the claims do not disclose the nature of the 'relationship' between the outcomes and multipliers, thus said 'relationship' is subject to the broadest reasonable interpretation by the examiner. For instance, if the examiner interprets the relationship between the outcomes and the multiplier sets to be a spatial relationship, then the relationship between the current outcome and the first set of multipliers is in fact simultaneously displayed with the predetermined relationship between the next outcome and the second set of multipliers, as the multipliers are always located at the top of the screen and the outcomes are always located in the reel positions. As this spatial relationship between the multipliers and the outcomes is ALWAYS displayed, is must therefore be simultaneously displayed. [Emphasis in Original]

As noted above, the Office Action has interpreted the "current outcome" 44 and the "next outcome" (not shown in Fig. 5 above) as the first and second first components. It is respectfully submitted that the "current outcome" 44 and the "next outcome" (not shown in Fig. 5 above) are not simultaneously displayed in Locke.

In contrast, an example of an embodiment of Claim 1 is illustrated in Fig. 3 of the present application, which is reproduced below for convenience.

FIG. 3



In this embodiment, a first first element of 10 has a predetermined relationship with a first set of second components which include X3, X7, X1, X2, X17, X4 and X25. A second first element of 40 has a predetermined relationship with a second set of second components which include X2, X17, X4, X11, X8, X19 and X5. As shown in Fig. 3, the display device simultaneously displays: (i) the predetermined relationship between 10 and X3, X7, X1, X2, X17, X4 and X25, (ii) the predetermined relationship between 40 and X2, X17, X4, X11, X8, X19 and X5, (iii) 10 and (iv) 40.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Locke does not disclose or suggest at least one display device that simultaneously displays (i) the first predetermined relationship, (ii) the second predetermined relationship, (iii) the first one of the first components, and (iv) the second one of the first components.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Locke combined with Miller does not render obvious at least one display device that simultaneously displays (i) a predetermined relationship of a first one of the first components and a predetermined relationship of a second one of the first components with the different sets of second

components, (ii) the first one of the first components, and (iii) the second one of the first components.

For at least these reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and its dependent claims are each patentably distinguished over Locke and are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, Claim 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65 and their respective dependent claims are each patentably distinguished over Locke and are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 16, 28, 39, 53 and 65 and their respective dependent claims are each patentably distinguished over Locke in view of Miller and are in condition for allowance.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Locke does not disclose that there are two sets of hourglasses satisfying the condition that the first set has an element not present in the second set and the second set has an element not present in the first set. Figs. 4, 6 and 7 of Locke are reproduced here to better illustrate Locke's disclosure.

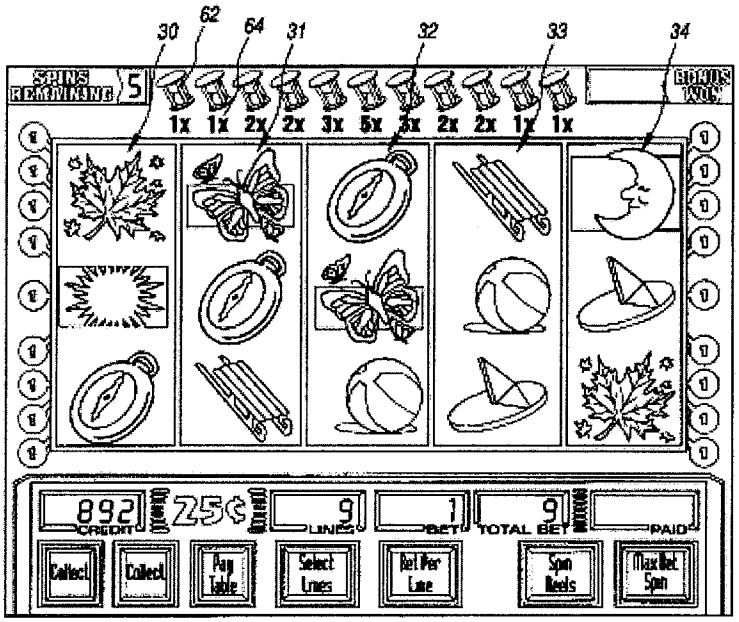


FIG. 4

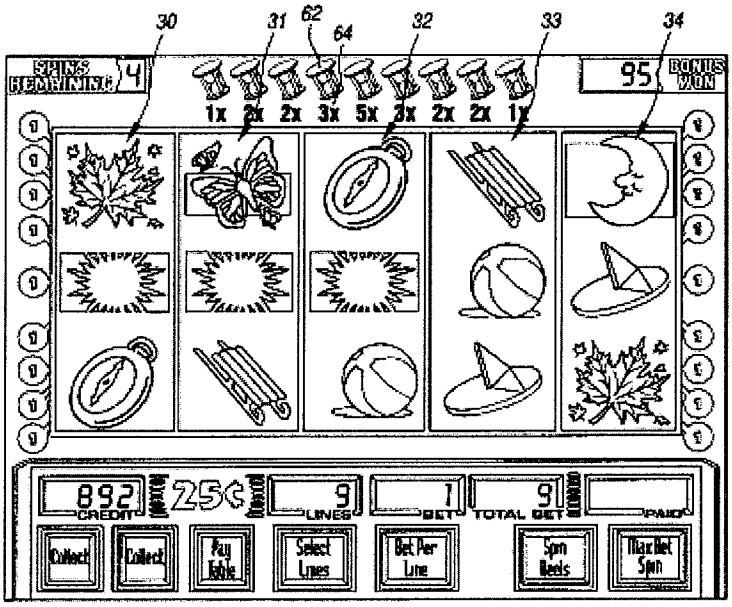


FIG. 6

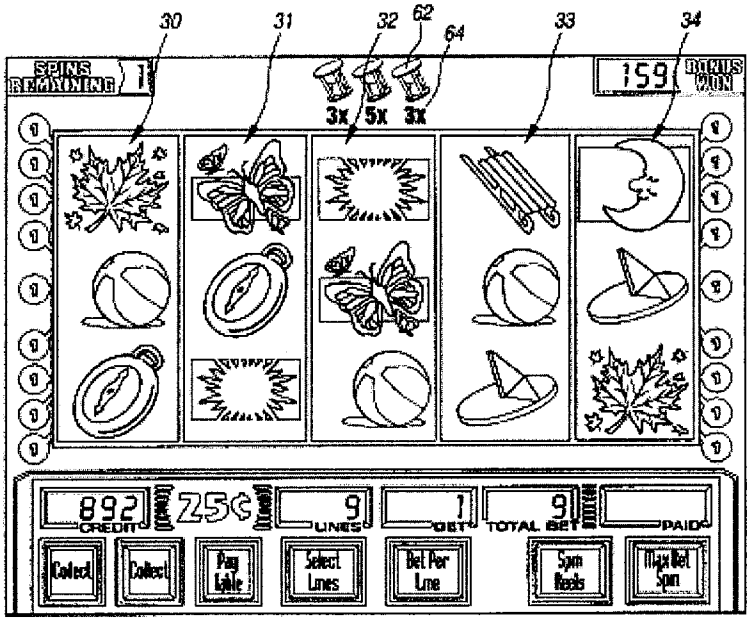


FIG. 7

The Office Action interprets the set of "1X, 1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X, 1X" (shown in Fig. 4) as a first set and the set of "1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X" (shown in Fig. 6) as a second set. The Office Action also states that the first set includes two elements, specifically the right-most and left-most 1Xs, which are not members of any other set disclosed by Locke. The Office Action concludes from the

above that Locke discloses "... an embodiment wherein the second set of second components includes a second one of the second components which is not in the first set of second components."

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action is mistaken. The second set of "1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X" (shown in Fig. 6) only includes multipliers that were present in the first set (shown in Fig. 4). Further, Locke discloses that all subsequent sets are composed exclusively of multipliers that were already present in all of the previous sets. For example, the set shown in Fig. 7 includes only "3X, 5X, 3X", which were each present in all previous sets, including those shown in Figs. 4 and 6.

The Advisory Action states:

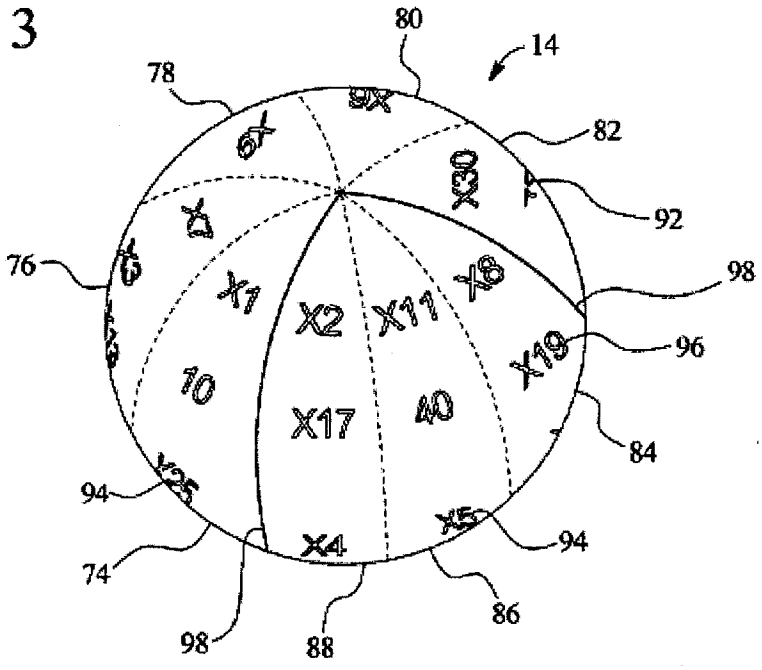
> applicant argues that Locke does not disclose that there are two sets of hourglasses satisfying the condition that the first set has an element not present in the second set and the second set has an element not present in the first set. For further explanation as to why this feature is obvious in view of Locke, the examiner refers applicant to col. 6, lines 5-13, which states that "modifications may be made to such characteristics as ... the sequence in which the multipliers are depicted on the display". Thus, Locke does contemplate an embodiment of the invention wherein the second set of second outcomes may include an outcome not displayed in the first set of second outcomes as claimed. For example, the first set of second components may comprise "3X 5X 3X" and the second set of second components may comprise "1X 2X 2X 3X 5X 3X 2X 2X 1X". Therefore, the examiner maintains that this limitation would have been obvious in view of Locke.

Applicant agrees that, in this second example, the second set (shown in Fig. 6) includes multipliers which are not members of the first set (shown in Fig. 7). However, in this example, the first set (shown in Fig. 6) only includes multipliers which are also present in the second set (shown in Fig. 7). Regardless of in which sequence the sets of multipliers, as taught by Locke, are displayed, there are not two sets displayed for

which there is (1) a multiplier in the first set that is not in the second set, and (2) a multiplier in the second set that is not in the first set.

In contrast, an example of an embodiment of Claim 88 is illustrated in Fig. 3 of the present application, which is reproduced below for convenience.

FIG. 3



As stated above, in this embodiment, a first first element of 10 has a predetermined relationship with a first set of second components which include X3, X7, X1, X2, X17, X4 and X25. A second first element of 40 has a predetermined relationship with a second set of second components which include X2, X17, X4, X11, X8, X19 and X5. As shown in Fig. 3, X1 is included in the first set of second components, but is not included in the second set of second components. Further, X11 is included in the second set of second components, but is not included in the first set of second components.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Locke does not disclose that the first set of second components includes a first one of the second components which is not in the second set of second components and that the second set of second components includes a second one of the second components which is not in the first set of second

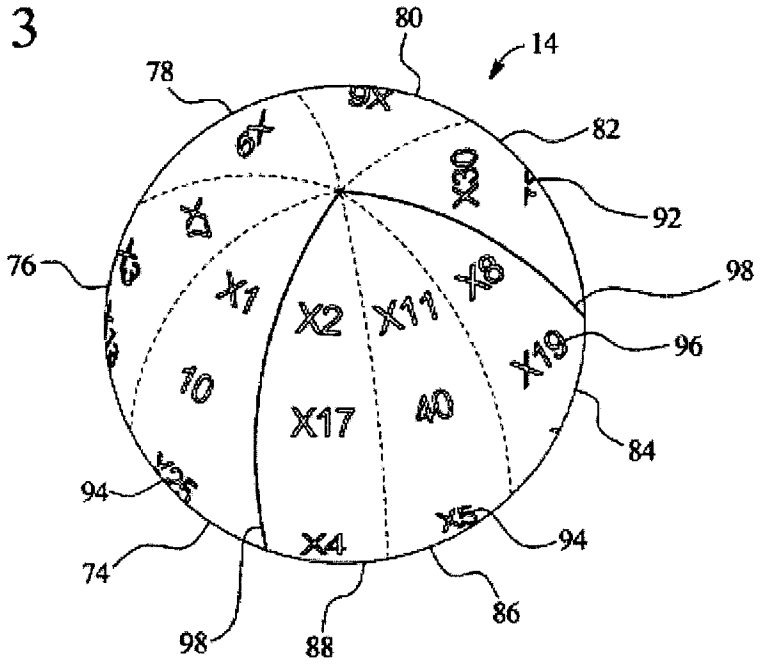
components. For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 88 is patentably distinguished over Locke and is in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action is similarly mistaken in its rejection of Claim 89. Even if the first set of "1X, 1X, 2X, 2X, 3X, 5X, 3X, 2X, 2X, 1X, 1X" (shown in Fig. 4) includes two multipliers that are not present in any other set of multipliers, that does not mean that Locke discloses that one set of second components includes one second component that is not shared by any other set of second components and that another set of second components includes another second component that is not shared by any other set of second components. To the contrary, as discussed above, each subsequent set of multipliers disclosed by Locke is composed of multipliers that were present in the previous sets.

It is further respectfully submitted that changing the sequence in which the sets of multipliers, as taught by Locke, are displayed does not cause Locke to disclose or suggest that one set of second components includes one second component that is not shared by any other set of second components and that another set of second components includes another second component that is not shared by any other set of second components. Using the example provided by the Advisory Action, the second set includes multipliers (e.g., 1X) which are not shared by any other set. However, all of the multipliers in the first set are shared by the second set. There is no multiplier of the first set which is not shared by some other set.

In contrast, an example of an embodiment of Claim 89 is illustrated in Fig. 3 of the present application, which is reproduced below for convenience.

FIG. 3



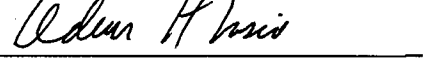
As stated above, in this embodiment, a first first element of 10 has a predetermined relationship with a first set of second components which include X3, X7, X1, X2, X17, X4 and X25. A second first element of 40 has a predetermined relationship with a second set of second components which include X2, X17, X4, X11, X8, X19 and X5. As shown in Fig. 3, the first set and second set share X17. Further, X1 is included in the first set of second components, but is not shared by any other set of second components. Similarly, X11 is included in the second set of second components, but is not shared by any other set of second components.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 89 is patentably distinguished over Locke and is in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY 

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